

# Lava streams from crater as Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts

June 25 2021, by Slamet Riyadi

---



Motorists ride past as Mount Merapi looms in the background, in Sleman, Friday, June 25, 2021. Indonesia's most volatile volcano erupted Friday, releasing plumes of ash high into the air and sending streams of lava with searing gas clouds flowing down its slopes. Credit: AP Photo/Slamet Riyadi

Indonesia's most volatile volcano erupted Friday, releasing plumes of ash

high into the air and sending streams of lava with searing gas clouds flowing down its slopes. No casualties were reported.

Clouds of hot ash shot 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) into the sky and an avalanche of lava and searing gas spilled down Mount Merapi's trembling slopes up to 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) at least six times since the morning as the [volcano](#) groaned and rumbled, said Hanik Humaida, the head of Yogyakarta's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center.

A series of strong pyroclastic flows were released from the actively growing [lava dome](#) in the inner summit crater of the 2,968-meter (9,737-foot) high volcano, Humaida said.

Pyroclastic flow is a volcanic phenomenon includes turbulent and hot avalanches of hot lava rocks, ash and volcanic gasses mixed together.

She described the volcano's lava dome as growing rapidly, causing hot lava and gas clouds to flow down its slopes. Parts of the lava dome were collapsing, sending rocks and ash flowing down the southwest flank of the volcano.

Ash covered several villages and nearby towns, she said.

Mount Merapi has seen increased volcanic activity in recent weeks and ash plumes extended about 1.8 kilometers (1.2 miles) to the southwest of the volcano before dawn, Humaida said.

Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center did not raise Merapi's alert status, which already was at the second-highest of four levels since it began erupting last November.



Hot cloud of volcanic materials run down the slope of Mount Merapi during an eruption in Sleman, Indonesia Friday, June 25, 2021. Indonesia's most volatile volcano erupted Friday, releasing plumes of ash high into the air and sending streams of lava with searing gas clouds flowing down its slopes. Credit: AP Photo/Slamet Riyadi

Villagers living on Merapi's fertile slopes are advised to stay 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) from the crater's mouth and should be aware of the peril of lava, the agency said.

The volcano is on densely populated Java island near the ancient city of Yogyakarta. It is the most active of more than 120 [active volcanoes](#) in Indonesia and has repeatedly erupted with [lava](#) and [gas clouds](#) recently.

Merapi's last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people.

Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and [volcanic activity](#) because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines around the ocean.

© 2021 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Lava streams from crater as Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts (2021, June 25) retrieved 21 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-06-lava-streams-crater-indonesia-mount.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.